

# TOLKIEN *Gleanings*

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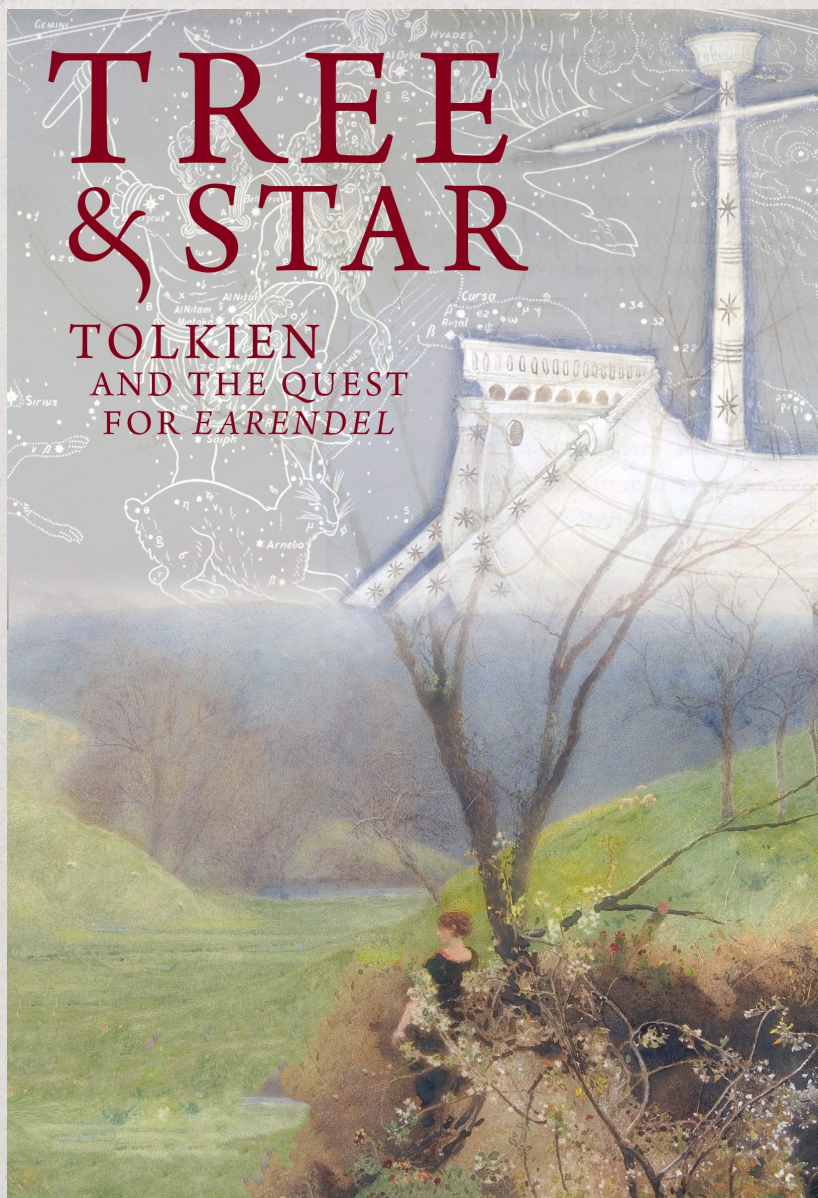


*Brooklands Red Cross Officers' Auxiliary Hospital, pictured in summer 1915.  
It was at Brooklands in the early autumn of 1917 that J.R.R. Tolkien wrote  
much of his 'The Tale of Tinúviel'.*

*Discerning News on Tolkien Scholarship from*  
**THE HEART OF ENGLAND**  
*Supplemented by occasional travels in Middle-earth*

*Also in this issue: a picture gallery of scenes around Roos and Hornsea.*





*Tree & Star: Tolkien and the Quest for Earendel*, my new book on the young Tolkien and his discovery of the mysterious Anglo-Saxon word *earendel*, from which sprang his *Legendarium*. 200,000 words. Newly available in paperback from August 2023, from [Lulu.com](https://lulu.com).

Get the ebook for just \$12 with the Gumroad coupon-code ***draughtofentwash*** which is available to the first four readers who spot and use the code.



# EDITORIAL

Welcome to my seventh PDF ‘zine, offering my interested reader a unified collection of blog posts which track items of possible interest to fellow Tolkien scholars, academics, collectors and artists. This PDF ‘zine version is produced to make it easy to pop a ‘unified edition’ into your folder of research PDFs, thus making the information easily searchable via desktop software such as dtSearch (paid) or DocFetcher (available in a free version).

The 50th anniversary of Tolkien’s death is rapidly slipping away in time, having been especially well celebrated in cultures with a more Catholic attitude to death — such as France and Italy.

The next possible anniversary is in 2024. This seems to offer the possibility of weaving a series of ‘telling fantasy stories to small children’ events or publications around that fact that... “*According to Douglas Anderson’s introduction to ‘The Annotated Hobbit’, Tolkien began telling stories to his children around 1924*”. It seems to me *that* 2024 could thus be reasonably claimed as the 100th anniversary of Tolkien’s first oral tales for children.

— David Haden, Stoke-on-Trent, England. 25th October 2023.

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# TOLKIEN GLEANINGS

Selected items of possible interest to Tolkien scholars, collectors, and devotees, as found from June to August 2023. Web links are in dark green and 'clickable', launching in your Web browser.

\* Freely available in the latest newly-started issue of the *Journal of Tolkien Research*, ["The Hen that Laid the Eggs: Tolkien and the Officer Training Corps"](#). Discusses how the young Tolkien's OTC... "experience underlies the importance of military preparedness and the consequences of lack of preparedness among the free peoples of Middle-earth". Expands on the author's... "2011 paper in *Tolkien Studies*".

\* Freely available and new in English in the Hungarian journal *Orpheus Noster*, ["Tolkien, the Practicing Catholic: The Early Letters"](#). May complement Holly Ordway's recent book, since the author finds that Tolkien's...

"actual religious practices of his everyday life have [not yet been] uncovered. This paper attempts to provide a brief glance into these by examining Tolkien's early Letters".

\* The new long blog post ["Space travel in The Notion Club Papers by "Incarnation. By being born" – What does Tolkien mean?"](#).

\* In the open access journal *Archaeoastronomy and Ancient Technologies* (now *Cultural Heritage and Modern Technologies*), the new journal article ["The symbol of the crescent moon with a star on ancient and medieval coins"](#) (2023)...



“In ancient times, the symbol of the crescent moon with a star may refer to a female divinity. [...] Probably on medieval coins the crescent moon with the star was initially coined as a symbol of the Virgin Mary”.

Newly “coined”, or appropriated from a pagan Venus divinity? I note Erasmus was clear that it was appropriated rather than invented...

“In ancient times Venus took care of mariners, because she was supposed to be born of the sea; because she has ceased to take Care, the Virgin Mother is [now, as Mary] substituted to this Mother.” — Erasmus.

\* Now apparently under Creative Commons on Archive.org, the PhD thesis [\*Asgard Revisited: Old Norse mythology and national culture in Iceland, 1820-1918\*](#) (2017).

\* A forthcoming set of [Jim Kirkwood re-releases](#)...

“Announcement of these reissues has generated no small degree of excitement among fans of synthesizer music, especially those in the dungeon synth scene. [...] Although held in high esteem by the dungeon synth scene, Kirkwood’s own output feels more in line with the British progressive rock and [1970s and early 80s] Berlin-school style of synth music that inspired him.”

The re-mastered re-issues of Kirkwood’s rare “Tolkien-focused” LP’s are set for release on 1st December 2023. For those interested there’s also [a 1992 LoTR inspired sampler](#) LP, and a higher-quality version which can be purchased to help support South Essex Animal Hospital.

\* In open access, the Masters dissertation [“Textual Conventions and the Encoded Reader in J.R.R. Tolkien’s Translation of \*Beowulf\*”](#) (2023).



\* New to me, the long “Saving the Shire: Ascetic Renunciation and Love of Home in J.R.R. Tolkien”. Being the text of the... “Inklings lecture delivered by Richard Rohlin at the sixth annual Inklings Festival in October of 2020”.

\* This week *La Libre* has an article on the new *Lord of the Rings* in French. Apparently with “previously unpublished illustrations by Tolkien”...

A [one-volume] version [of the *Lord of the Rings*] more in line with Tolkien’s wishes. The new complete edition, revised, corrected and expanded, is published on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the author’s death. This is one of the editorial events of the Autumn” [being] “the new French translation” [of that] “already revised in 2014 by Daniel Lauzon [and which has here been] further refined by the translator” [...] “It is based on the latest version of the English text, revised by Christopher Tolkien based on indications left by his father. It offers previously unpublished illustrations by Tolkien, and is supplemented by an index that Tolkien had wished to include during his lifetime, but did not have time to provide for the first publication of the trilogy in 1954-1956.

The article also notes that the character names in the book are no longer French-ified for a French audience. The *La Libre* writer has actually seen a copy of the new edition and pronounces the book, printed in Italy, of sumptuous quality. Said to be a “limited edition”, it was officially published on 19th October 2023.

\* Due at the end of October 2023, the German book *Aure entuluwa! – Der Tag soll wieder kommen. J.R.R. Tolkien zum 50. Todestag*. Ten essays and reflections from writers and thinkers for whom Tolkien was their path to Christian belief.



\* Now on YouTube, the recent presentation to the Blake Society titled “The Edge of Human Experience: Blake and Tolkien’s Art”. Quite a dense presentation, which finds the influence could have been indirect by other artists influenced by Blake.

\* “Exhibition celebrates works of Narnia and Tolkien illustrator Pauline Baynes”. It’s now over already, but is worth noting...

“Farnham Town Council was privileged to display a large collection of her work, generously provided by her relative Alberto Ceceatelli who brought the collection over from Italy for this very special occasion. The exhibition opened with a private view and during opening hours the council chamber was crowded with visitors until it closed at mid-day the following Monday. This was the first time the collection had been seen in [the UK] and it created a great deal of interest.”

\* Freely available on YouTube, “Sixty Years of J.R.R. Tolkien: A Lecture by Professor Thomas Alan Shippey”. Given on 27th September 2023. The 90 minute recording is listenable, with Shippey in his home study on Zoom and with a reasonably good headset — rather than in an echoing lecture hall in Manila. It was a familiar personal talk, with nothing new for those who’ve heard his previous talks and online interviews.





The questions held the most interest and they begin at 53:20. Regrettably they go straight into asking about the TV series — it really should be a given at events such as this that the presenters make it clear: “NO movie or TV questions, please”. Requiring the audience to write their questions succinctly on cards, which are then passed to the front, also saves a lot of time and also forestalls any tedious grand-standing by audience members. Here are transcriptions of two of the questions and Shippey’s answers likely to be of interest to readers...

**Q:** What question would he have liked to discuss personally with Tolkien?

**A:** I’d have liked to talk to him about the nature of dialect studies. I think we now know a lot more about dialect than Tolkien did. [Based on the evidence then available, he would have thought] that *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* came essentially from the county of Chester. I would have liked to say to him, ‘Excuse me Professor but I think that’s *wrong*. Actually it’s not Chester at all, is it?’. Chester was a very funny and strange county with special privileges in the middle-ages, and that meant its neighbours didn’t like it at all. Indeed they fought a battle over it. No, actually surely the author of *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* came from the neighbouring county of Staffordshire. And I think Tolkien would have been pleased to have heard this argument, partly because Staffordshire was one of his ‘home counties’. There are three counties which meet in Birmingham — Worcestershire, Warwickshire and Staffordshire — and those I think were the counties that Tolkien thought were *his* counties. And [as such] he would have been very pleased to have me argue that the great works of medieval literature in English all came from the West Midlands... and especially from those three counties.

**Q:** What gaps still need work, in Tolkien studies?

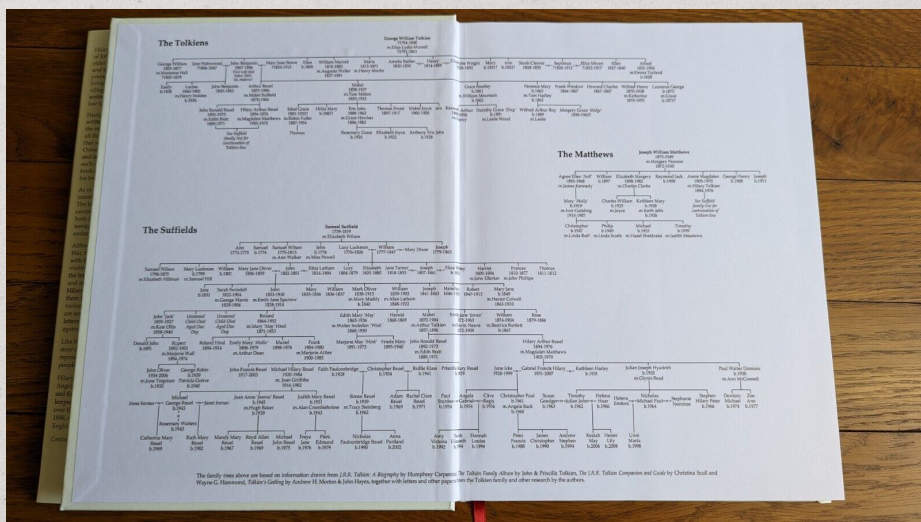
**A:** Well, I think that there are perhaps two great gaps. One is that we know that Tolkien spent a great deal of time and



thought on producing a work called “The Lost Road”, but of course he never got round to doing it [i.e. to completion]. We do know quite a lot about what he intended, but it would be good to have a better theory of what he *meant to do*. And I think there are some hints and indications. But of course the only answer can be speculative... and academics don’t really like speculation. [...] I made a start on it by writing a piece in the [2022] memorial volume for Christopher Tolkien [*The Great Tales Never End: Essays in Memory of Christopher Tolkien*], in which I discuss a poem by Tolkien which I think he intended to work up as part of “The Lost Road”. The other [gap] is that we now have a great mass of early material edited by Christopher Tolkien, and I think Tolkien critics have rather fought shy of studying this. Because there’s so much of it, and it’s so difficult and it’s so *tangled*. But I think it would be interesting once again to try to [use this material to] get back to the original sources... no, not to the original sources... to Tolkien’s original *intentions*.

\* A [new official website for Tom Shippey](#). The site made me aware of his interesting-sounding book [Hard Reading: Learning from Science Fiction](#) (2016).

\* Currently on eBay, another copy of the very rare book [Wheelbarrows at Dawn: Memories of Hilary Tolkien](#), with a number of sample images such as this...





\* A new open-access medieval journal, [Eventum: A Journal of Medieval Arts & Rituals](#). The first issue has been published, themed ‘The Arts and Rituals of Pilgrimage’.

\* The latest issue of the Spanish language journal [Peonza: Revista de literatura infantil y juvenil](#) (‘Peonza: journal of literature for children and juveniles’) is themed ‘[Fantastic Stories](#)’. There’s an article on ‘Tolkien’s Infinite Stories’ along with articles on Alice, Pinnochio, Jules Verne, Peter and Wendy, and others. The ongoing *Peonza* appears to be a paper-only journal, which inhibits automatic translation, although the first 132 issues are [freely online](#).

\* In Italy on 14th October 2023, a scholarly [Workshop: ‘Tolkien and the Arthurian Myths: in honor of the 50th anniversary of Tolkien’s death’](#)... “This workshop is open to all Tolkien enthusiasts, literature students, budding writers and anyone who wishes to deepen their knowledge of Tolkien’s works and the Arthurian myths. Places are limited to a maximum of fifteen participants.”

\* New to me, a book of Italian essays on Tolkien titled [Albero di Tolkien](#). Topic titles, in approximate English translation, include among others...

- The name of Snorri.
- Walking through Oxford.
- The use of traditional symbols in J.R.R. Tolkien.
- Tolkien’s polytheistic sentiment.
- Tolkien, life, death and immortality.
- The figure of the hero in Tolkien.
- Music and Middle-earth.
- Tolkien and the figurative arts.

\* On YouTube, the [October 2023 Update for the Digital Tolkien Project](#).



\* Tolkien's [Philology: General Works \(1923-1925\)](#). Being a new Archive.org PDF of his "The Year's Work in English Studies" surveys for 1924, 1925 and 1926. These are also on Archive.org in their original format and context.

\* The latest edition of the UK's *The Critic* magazine [reviews \*The Globe\*](#), a new book offering an entertaining brisk tour of the history of the 'flat Earth' fallacy. This book also touches on the use by Tolkien...

The book ends as rapidly as it began, with an account of the flat literary worlds created by the medievalists-turned-fantasy authors C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien. [But] Hannam's narrative is at its most illuminating when discussing the wide acceptance of the spherical earth theory in the European Middle Ages. Far from [being] drooling, dogma-blinded pantomime bigots [...] mediaeval thinkers were keen cosmologists who by and large had read their Aristotle. Some, such as Bede in the 7th century, arrived at similar conclusions on their own.

\* Now freely available on Archive.org, [Christian History](#) magazine #121 (2017) was themed "Faith in the Foxholes". The issue highlighted faith during front-line military combat.

\* "Showcasing lesser-known scholarship on Lewis", the forthcoming inaugural [Undiscovered C.S. Lewis Conference](#). To be held at George Fox University in Oregon, USA, from 5th-8th September 2024.

\* In 'The Archivist's Nook' this week, the article ["The Road Goes On" – The Making of the Tolkien Exhibit](#)...

"... in the reading room on the second floor of Catholic University's Mullen library throughout the Fall 2023 semester, but a digital version (which may include some 'extras' as all director's cuts do!) can be [accessed online](#)."



\* In the latest *Journal of Tolkien Research*, a [new review](#) of the book *The Road to Fair Elfland: Tolkien On Fairy-stories: An Extended Commentary* (2022).

\* A 100-minute interview in French, new on Archive.org, "[Tolkien, l'Europe et la Tradition](#)" ('Tolkien, Europe and Tradition'). Note the English subtitles file, found under 'SubRip Files'. Glancing at these they appear to be quite comprehensible, apart from some lack of capitalisation.

\* Booking details for "[A weekly series of free talks by Oxford staff](#)" this autumn, intended to "commemorate the 50th anniversary of the death of J.R.R. Tolkien". Appears to be "Members of the University only", though one can hope there will also be .MP3 recordings at some point.

\* New to me, and now on Archive.org, the book [A Tolkien treasury: stories, poems, and illustrations celebrating the author and his world](#) (2000). A very mixed bag, by the look of it. But some may be interested in the reprinting of Auden's original response to the then-new *LoTR*, and some factual essays found among the poems such as "The Coinage of Gondor and the Western Lands".

\* In Los Angeles, the Nova Forum is to hosted a short course running 24th-27th October 2023. Titled [Tolkien and the Mystery of Literary Creation...](#)

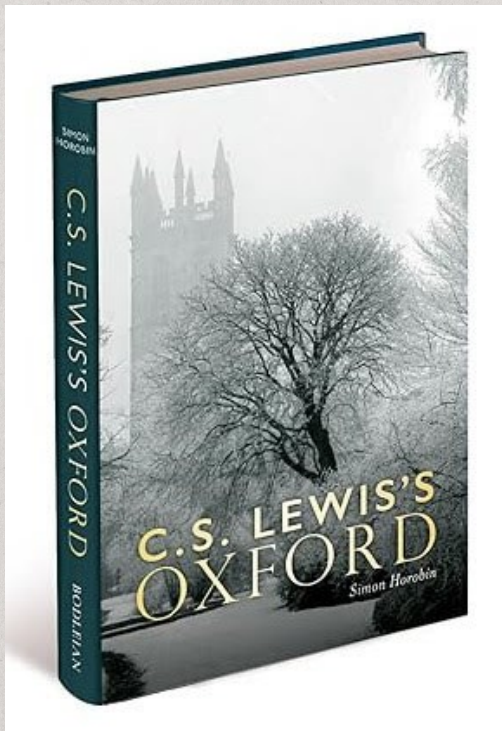
"Professor Pezzini is the author of a forthcoming monograph on Tolkien to be published by Cambridge University Press in early 2024, the first scholarly study of his literary theory."

I'd imagine the course's class titles give a flavour of his forthcoming book...



- The Cats of Queen Beruthiel: Linguistic Aesthetic and the Gratuitousness of Creativity
- The Authors of the Red Book: Meta-textual Frames and Writing as Discovery
- The Lords of the West: A Poetics of Cloaking and Freedom
- Beren and Frodo: Intra-textual Parallels, Internal Figuration, and the Universality of the Particular
- Gandalf’s Fall and Return: Sub-creative Submission and the Arising of Prophecy
- The Last Stage: the Death of the Author and the Effoliation of Creation

\* Also forthcoming, the Bodleian Library is to issue a new book titled *C.S. Lewis’s Oxford* in summer 2024. Much of which I’d imagine will overlap with ‘Tolkien’s Oxford’. Looks like a sumptuous and thick hardback tour, but reasonably priced and also said to include... “a number of new archival discoveries, including letters, tutorial reports and even an unpublished poem”. [Pre-ordering now.](#)





\* Now freely online in English, the book chapter “Tolkien’s Great Escape and its Role in the *Harry Potter* Series: How the Concept of Death Shapes J.K. Rowling’s Novels” (2019). Specifically, Tolkien’s concept of death. Presented at a Czech conference in 2017, and presumably later published in the conference book.

\* How different is Tolkien in Chinese translation? Set for publication in spring 2024, the new book *Reading Tolkien in Chinese: Religion, Fantasy and Translation* (Perspectives on Fantasy series) is set to give the answers. I’m guessing there may also be self-censorship at play among translators and publishers, given the nature of the Chinese regime. And perhaps also fan-project counter-responses to that? Though various censorship-filtered press reports from China suggest that the Tolkien underground there is widely dispersed, young, finds expression mostly in the more obscure regional cities, and is more interested in cos-play and fan fiction than in scholarly work and thought.

\* Due before Christmas, according to Amazon UK, the book *Speculative Poetry and the Modern Alliterative Revival: A Critical Anthology...*

“If a literary movement arises but no one notices, is it still a movement? [...] this anthology collects for the first time over fifty speculative poets. [...] Alongside such established names as C.S. Lewis, Patrick Rothfuss, Edwin Morgan, Poul Anderson, Jo Walton, P.K. Page, and W.H. Auden, this anthology also includes representative texts from cultural movements such as contemporary neo-paganism and the Society for Creative Anachronism.”

No Tolkien mentioned, but perhaps that’s because the Estate refused permission to reprint?



See also [the 2021 article in \*Studies in the Fantastic\*](#), titled “Antiquarianism Underground: The Twentieth-century Alliterative Revival in American Genre Poetry” on...

“a wholly neglected subset of the alliterative revival [which] involves American genre poets working in fantasy, horror, and science fiction.”

\* A new podcast will discuss [the history of fresh produce](#), and the presenters may be interested in some pointers from Tolkien scholars. Since they say...

“we might even try to understand the produce of Middle-earth”.

\* Kristine Larsen’s Oxonmoot 2023 keynote conference address has been released as an open-access paper. [“Everything I Ever Needed to Know About the North Pole I Learned from Father Christmas \(and Karhu the Polar Bear \[and Ilbereth the Elf\]\)”](#). This...

“investigates the Father Christmas Letters through a world-building lens”. Also with a weather-eye on the North Pole, as understood by science in the 1909-1939 exploration period.

\* Advance notice of a new book [Theology and Tolkien: Constructive Theology](#), “coming early 2024”. The book appears set to be a shelf companion to the just published multi-author academic collection *Theology and Tolkien: Practical Theology* (September 2023). For which I see there’s now a £35 Kindle ebook edition listing on Amazon UK. This appears to be [due to be sent on 2nd October 2023](#). At which time the table-of-contents will be viewable, as part of the 10% free sample.



\* The French Tolkien Association and the French Université Paris-Creteil have a pleasing new poster for their joint conference ‘Journées de Recherche et Rencontres sur Tolkien’. The event is set for 6th – 7th October 2023, at the University of Paris. It will focus on “issues relating to translation” and also the new scholarly understandings emerging from the growing awareness of Tolkien’s life and surroundings. The latest programme listing is [in Italian here](#).

**Journées de  
Recherche et de  
Rencontres sur  
TOLKIEN**

**2023**

**6 OCTOBRE**  
Colloque à l'UPEC  
à CRETEIL (94)

♦

**7 OCTOBRE**  
Colloque à la  
bibliothèque Buffon  
à PARIS (75)

Soirée thématique  
aux Caves Allées  
à PARIS (75)

♦

**8 OCTOBRE**  
Animations à  
La Mouette Rieuse  
à PARIS (75)

**Programme & inscription**  
EN FLASHANT LE CODE...

OU EN SE RENDANT SUR...  
**JRRT2023.TOLKIENDIL.COM**

Journées organisées par — En partenariat avec

Tolkien UPEC UNIVERSITÉ PARIS-CRETEIL VAL DE MARNE La Mouette Rieuse Bibliothèque Buffon PARIS

\* [“The Words. Or Holes. Or Both: Writing as an Integrative Methodology for Trauma](#), an August 2023 PhD thesis for the University of Denver. Has an early chapter discussing Tolkien’s use of fantasy in relation to trauma and loss. The record-page only offers a free PDF preview.



\* New in a peer-reviewed medical journal is the article [“Why Psychiatrists Should Read \(and Watch\) \*Lord of the Rings\*”](#) (\$ paywall)... “Stories have considerable impact on our psychological health [...] [Drawing on *LoTR*] six lessons will be discussed.” I’d add that there is also a newer media form, perhaps more psychologically potent in the long-term than either book or movies. The full-cast full-SFX unabridged audiobook with music. Such as that created for *LoTR* by Phil Dragash using Howard Shore’s music, and voices closely patterned on the excellent voice-work done for the *LoTR* movies.

\* New to me, the [Tolkien Music List](#) website. With a discography of ‘Tolkien tribute’ popular music of all types. Lots of heavy metal bands listed, as you might expect.

\* Due in a few months in the Manchester University Press ‘Medieval Literature and Culture’ book series, [\*Fantasies of Music in Nostalgic Medievalism\*](#). I’d imagine that music in Tolkien will be discussed, along with the Shore soundtrack. The book is set to ship on 19th December 2023, barring the inevitable postal and rail strikes, says Amazon UK. It’s an £85 single-author academic book and focuses on... “musical performance, [medievalist fantasy] literature, cinema and their reception [...] in the period between the Second World War and the present”.

\* *Ad Fontes* magazine has a lengthy new multi-book review this week, freely available, [“The Whole Lewis”](#). This reviews a three volume biography (2019-2022)...

“Harry Lee Poe is to be praised and thanked for this outstanding biographical achievement of over one thousand pages in three volumes on the life of C.S. Lewis. It is to date the most extensive study on the development of Lewis’s life, written with a synoptic eye toward the primary sources — the



Lewis family papers, Warnie's memoirs, Jack's letters — many of which were unavailable to the earlier Lewis biographers, and largely remain unavailable to the general readership. In this trilogy, Poe unfolds Lewis's life like an accordion..."

\* Dates for the Tolkien Society's [AGM and SpringMoot 2024](#). 12th – 14th April 2024 at Cambridge University.

\* Another review of the new book *Twenty-first Century Tolkien* (2023), at [The Notion Club Papers](#)...

"the core problem of this book [is that the author] seems to like and approve-of — or at least take seriously as valid options — a great deal of what seems to me the most ignorant, incompetent and crass interpretations [of Tolkien's work]"

Alternative title on some listings, *Twenty-First-Century Tolkien* (added hyphen) or *Tolkien in the Twenty-First Century* (hardcover). Not to be confused with the recent academic collections *Tolkien in the 21st Century: Reading, Reception, and Reinterpretation* (2022) or *Twenty-first Century Receptions of Tolkien: Peter Roe Series XXI* (2022).

\* A new report of a rural footpath walk in England, titled "[Hunting Hobbits in Lancashire](#)". With excellent pictures. Though the author concludes that, while looking rather pretty, this local trail is probably not so 'Tolkien' as it claims to be...

"the big question: 'how much truth is there in the assertions behind the Tolkien Trail?'. I'm no expert, and we can never know for sure, but it all looks rather flimsy to me."

\* Austin Freeman talks about his recent book *Tolkien Dogmatics*, on the latest [PostConsumer podcast](#)...



“He will be a speaker at Urbana Theological Seminary’s 2023 Tolkien Conference where Chris Marchand (who runs PostConsumer Reports) will also be a speaker.”

\* New on Archive.org, a long run of Dungeon magazine, 1986-2010. Also new is a run of one of the main official news ‘zines for RPGs from 1981 to 2004. These may be of interest to those seeking to detect Tolkien themes, or to find Tolkien-influenced illustrations, in older *D&D* RPGs and their ephemera. May also interest role-playing gamers seeking certain types of older Tolkien-flavoured material.





\* The major exhibition '[Fantastic Animals](#)' at the Louvre-Lens in France. Opens 27th September and runs until 15th January 2024, exhibiting... "more than 250 works – sculptures, paintings and *objets d'art*, as well as films and music – ranging from antiquity to the present day".

It has a website which tells you everything except what the clueless Brit wants to know: "is Lens a place, and if so is it easy to access from the UK?". Google Maps eventually obliges... yes. Lens is a town just 30 miles inland from the major and well-known England-to-France passenger port of Calais.

\* Due before Christmas 2023, [The Fellowship of the Knits: The Unofficial Lord of the Rings Knitting Book](#). A 208 page book, with what looks like high production values, and from... "the author of nine knitting books and over 500 published knitting designs".

\* The hardcover of the new [The Hobbit: Illustrated by the Author](#) should have arrived in lockers by now...

"illustrated throughout with over 50 sketches, drawings, paintings and maps by J.R.R. Tolkien himself and with the complete text printed in two colours."

\* Just finished at the end of October 2023, a Signum University online course "Tolkien and the Classical World", run by Hamish Williams – the author of a book of the same title.

\* A new '[Digital Tolkien Project](#)' update briefing, via YouTube.

\* [Joe Pearce is interviewed on Tolkien topics](#), on this week's *Register Radio* podcast.



\* Holly Ordway gives more interviews about her new book *Tolkien's Faith*, on the podcasts [Conversations with Consequences](#), and [Pints with Jack: The C.S. Lewis Podcast](#).

\* On the *Mythmakers* podcast, [An Evening with the Inklings](#)... "our esteemed guests recreated the type of literary discussion that the original group would have engaged in".

\* *The Jersey Catholic* (Jersey, USA) on how ["C.S. Lewis' work continues to gain popularity 60 years after his death"](#). Illustrated by a large if blurry, picture. Which I've taken the liberty of enhancing and colourising. By doing this I've noticed Lewis did actually have huge 'hobbit' ears. I had mistakenly thought that his large ears were a spurious artefact of an AI generated picture I'd seen on a poster. I was wrong (see the back cover of this 'zine).

\* Free in the latest *Omnes* magazine, an interview in English with the [founder of the Catholic Tolkien Association](#)...

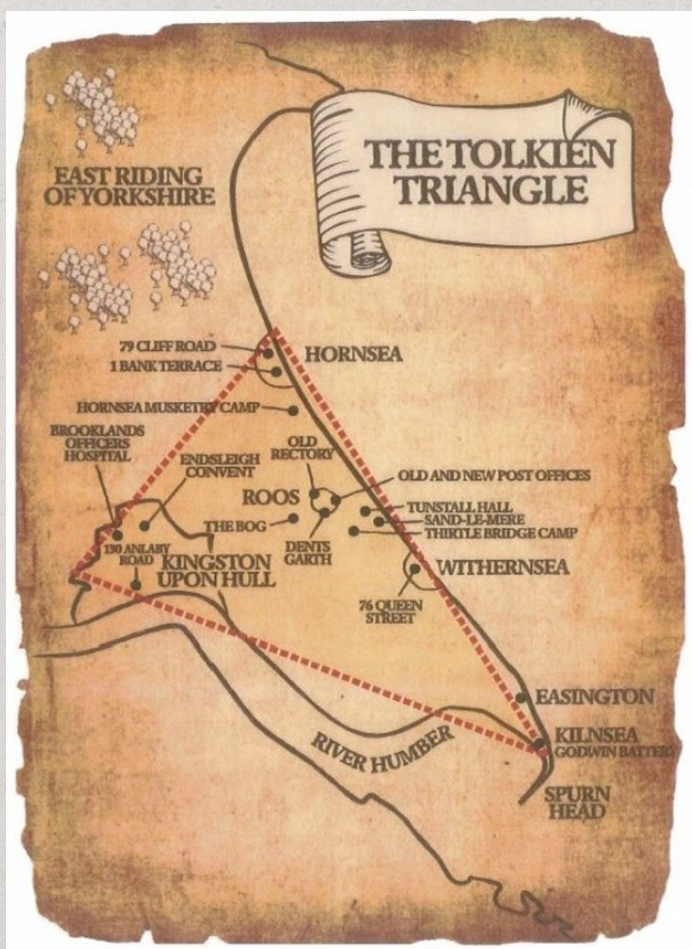
"The important thing with ATC is to have an environment where no one feels stupid for believing that Tolkien's works have helped them in their faith. There are a lot of us whose faith has been helped by Tolkien's works [...] it has helped us in our faith and from there we talk, study, write articles... The question is to study him as a Catholic, which is what they have not allowed us to do, because they consider it a circumstantial thing."

\* A "coming soon" page for a book review? A bad habit to get into, I'd suggest. But the Anselm Society has a page for a review of the book [A Well of Wonder: C. S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien, and The Inklings](#) (2016), posted yesterday and with the review billed as "Coming shortly".



\* [“Tolkien’s fantasy as tapestry”](#), a talk by Alice Bernadac, curator of tapestries, on the topic of the suite of giant wall-tapestries woven after Tolkien at Aubusson. The talk (billed as a “conference”) is at the Soreze Abbey School and is part of the current temporary exhibition ‘Image/Imaginary in the illustrated book, from Homer to Tolkien’ (runs until 8th October 2023), on show at the Cite Internationale de la Tapisserie d’ Aubusson.

\* The UK’s coastal city of Hull now has a [‘Tolkien Triangle Trail’](#) with a basic map. The above is an Archive.org link, as the website is consistently “502 Bad Gateway” unavailable in my browser.





\* A new PhD thesis in German for Heidelberg University, *Die Konzeption von Konigtum bei J.R.R. Tolkien: zur rezeption und transformation religionshistorischer motive und religioser herrscherlegitimation in der literarischen weltkonstruktion von Middle-earth* ('The Conception of Kingship in J.R.R. Tolkien: on the reception and transformation of motifs of the history of religion and the religious legitimisation of power in the literary world-making of Middle-earth'). Freely available and kindly placed under full Creative Commons Attribution.

\* A new B.A. dissertation for the University of Pardubice, *"Philosophy of J.R.R. Tolkien's Arda"*. Examines... "motifs of good and evil in Tolkien's works" via frameworks of "Manichaeism, Augustinian and Boethian approach[es] to morality, and Aristotle's virtue ethics". In English and freely available.

\* Italian artist groups, the Italian Association of Tolkien Studies and Eterea Edizioni, presents "Hobbits, Elves & other Folks: a Festival of the Fantastic, from folklore to fiction, by J.R.R. Tolkien". 6th to 8th October 2023 in the capital city of Rome. With... "live music, presentations, talks, themed markets, a series of 'fantasy and comics' laboratories, workshops, open-air sessions of retro gaming + board and tabletop role-playing games." Also, among other items...

– "Middle-earth Bestiary, an exhibition focused on animals in Tolkien's works, including in later publishing, games and pop culture." Also has creative workshops for children.

– 'Light and Shadow: symbolism in the works of J.R.R. Tolkien', a round-table in dialogue with the public".

– 'Fantastic Religions and Where to Find Them: divinities,



myths and rites in science fiction and fantasy', with the authors speaking about a Quasar Edizioni book of the same name.

– 'Fantasy Illustration Survival Course, a workshop + illustration laboratory for publishing' by Claudia Marrone, editorial illustrator.

\* In other news from Italy, confirmation of the medium-sized 150-item exhibition 'J.R.R. Tolkien 1973-2023: Man-Professor-Author'. This opens on 14th November 2023 at the National Gallery of Modern Art in Rome, and is "curated by Alessandro Nicosia and Oronzo Cilli".

\* The book *Translating and Illustrating Tolkien* should have been published on 10th October 2023. This is...

"a collection of six papers presented at The Tolkien Society Autumn Seminar held online on Saturday 6th November 2021."

\* The *U.S. Sun* newspaper features a handyman who says "*I build hobbit holes for your garden*", for \$10,000.

\* Princeton University's *James Madison Program podcast* this week has an excellent interview with Rachel Fulton Brown, about "Religion and Politics in *The Lord of the Rings*". It starts a little creakily though, so bear with it to 3:38 minutes. And note that the politics discussion is fairly short, and near the end.

\* A University of Birmingham short report on "*A Tolkien Weekend in Bewdley*", near Birmingham...

To celebrate his life and work, Professor John Holmes and doctoral student Dion Dobrzynski got together with the Bewdley Museum and the Guild of St. George to put on a programme of events at the museum and at Ruskin Land in the Wyre Forest.



\* In Virginia, Christendom College is [hosting an evening Tolkien event](#) marking the 50th Anniversary of J.R.R. Tolkien's death...

Professor Michael Strickland, from the Department of English Language and Literature, will survey Tolkien's Middle English scholarship, particularly on Chaucer, and then further examine how his work on Chaucer potentially influenced Tolkien's *Legendarium* as he was writing. Dr. Daniel McInerny, from the Department of Philosophy, will close the evening with a talk on Tolkien's philosophy of stories, reflecting on the power of stories, and learning to understand our own lives as part of a greater story.

\* In France, a [library exhibition on Tolkien and science](#) is on show from 3rd October to 10th November 2023. No details about how large it is. I assume small, and that it may only be a few cabinets.

\* In the last week or so I've heard several people talk about how this year's autumn / fall seems ideal for a re-read of *The Lord of The Rings*. Can I suggest that [Phil Dragash's unabridged Lord of the Rings](#) audiobook is well worth considering.

\* The *De Limburger* newspaper reports... "In the month of the fiftieth anniversary of J.R.R.'s death. Tolkien, the Dutch, Belgian and German Tolkien societies are holding an exhibition in the Gothic Sint Janskerk church, Maastricht", which is in Holland. The article is paywalled, but I found [a YouTube trailer video](#). The show was set to open, with accompanying readings and workshops, on 2nd September 2023. I'm uncertain if it then became a continuing exhibition. But the *De Limburger* article is dated 11th September, which suggests it may be continuing.



\* A new *Medieval Podcast* episode on [“Trees and Religion in Early Medieval England”](#), discussing the new book of the same name.

\* New to me, [\*Die Schweiz in Tolkiens Mittelerde\*](#) (2021). A book with maps, in German, relating to Tolkien’s 1911 trek in Switzerland. I thought it might be a short pocket guide-book, since Amazon gives no page count on the paper edition. But Google Books has it as “296 pages” and gives the substantial-looking contents pages. The author seems keen to compare various areas to Mordor, Rohan etc.









\* Some readers may be interested in the new academic book *The Medieval Worlds of Neil Gaiman* (2023), available now from the University of Iowa Press.

\* Video from the recent [Oxonmoot 50 – Day 3](#). Four talks are covered by the three-hour video. Including two with titles which had previously made me interested, “Dyeing in Middle-earth” and “The Animals That Are Not There”. In the Questions, the “Dyeing” presenter later has a superb put-down of a “...but what about the TV series?” question.

\* Been and gone, a Civic Society public talk on [“Tolkien’s Connections with Malvern”](#). This was on 8th September 2023...

Dr. Bradley Wells will talk about J.R.R. Tolkien, the twentieth-century literary genius and famous author in the realm of fantasy novels *The Hobbit* and *The Lord Of The Rings* and his understated connections with the Malvern Hills and Great Malvern.

The talk was part of [a surprisingly rich selection of cultural festivals and events](#) being held in the town during autumn 2023. I note that Auden was also in the town, in his younger days as a teacher at Malvern school. Like Tolkien he had grown up in Birmingham, in his case in the slightly more southerly suburb of Harborne, from 1919-1939. Thus the Malvern Hills were very much ‘on the doorstep’ in Auden’s youth, as they were for Tolkien. Like Tolkien he retained few ties to the city after he left, although in Auden’s case there was at least one early ‘on the Malvern Hills’ poem and a rather sad Larkin-esque ‘farewell’ 1937 poem which evoked the urban topography and voices of the city. His “the most lovely country that I know” poem doesn’t really count, as that was about the



view from the train “from Birmingham to Wolverhampton” and thus mostly evoking the eastern part of the Black Country. But that was the way of it, in those industrial and industrious days. The clever kids in smoky cities such as Birmingham or Stoke-on-Trent worked hard at school, assiduously avoided picking up the heavy local accent, noticed the industrial views from the train, and then... they mostly left as soon as they were able — never to look back.

\* *Catholic World Report* has a short musing this week on “[The magnanimous faith of J.R.R. Tolkien](#)”. The author suggests that Tolkien’s feeling for magnanimity comes through in his writing, and this may be something that many readers find subtly appealing.

\* The presumably new(?) stage play [Lewis and Tolkien](#) is set for its premiere run in the USA...

*Set in Oxford, England in the autumn of 1963 at the ‘Rabbit Room’ of the Eagle and Child Pub, [the events of this play are] something of ‘a return to the familiar’ for Lewis and Tolkien. Filled with humour, rousing debate, and reconciliation, the two men learn the true value of their friendship with a little help from a few pints of beer and the energetically curious barmaid, Veronica.*

This is a Los Angeles theatre production, billed as a “world premiere”. It is not to be confused with the still-forthcoming Web series which filmed in London last year.

\* A new thirty minute [Brandon Vogt and Holly Ordway Interview](#) for *Word on Fire*. Not the same as the previous *Word on Fire* podcast interview about Ordway’s new *Tolkien’s Faith: A Spiritual Biography* book, which was a long pre-publication interview with Michael Ward.



\* Wheaton College has [two events](#) celebrating the launch of *Tolkien's Faith: A Spiritual Biography*, on 25th-26th September 2023.

\* A Spanish translation of Holly Ordway's book *Tolkien's Faith* will be [published by Loyola](#) in spring 2024.

\* Holly Ordway has posted a new report on the recent [Tolkien's Words and Worlds](#) event at Oxford University...

Simon Horobin's excellent paper "Never Trust a Philologist: C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien and the Place of Philology in English Studies" was illuminating of the academic context that Tolkien found himself in when he arrived at Pembroke as the Rawlinson and Bosworth Professor of Anglo-Saxon.

\* In northern England, the Barnsley Museum now has [an official page for \*The Magic of Middle Earth\*](#) touring exhibition. On this stop the exhibition will be free, and will run from... "30th September 2023 – 6th April 2024".

\* New in classical antiquity journal *Antigone*, ["Middle-earth Songs: 50 Years After Tolkien"](#).

\* Holly Ordway gave a talk on ["Beauty and Sorrow: Tolkien's journey of faith"](#) at St. Mary's Church, on Sunday 10th September 2023. Her publisher Word on Fire had then also just released a new and highly-polished official [one minute trailer](#) for Ordway's acclaimed new book, *Tolkien's Faith: A Spiritual Biography*.

\* Ordway was also in Houston, USA, and gave a talk there on ["Tolkien's Faith and the Foundations of Middle Earth"](#), 2nd October 2023.



\* The [first review](#) I've seen of the recent book *Tolkien in the Twenty-First Century: What Middle-earth means to us today* (2023). The reviewer finds it "a long wearying slog" and "a read that is about as compelling as a phone book".

\* A new long and very informed article on ["J.R.R. Tolkien on Philosophical Anarchism"](#).

\* News of a new book, [Tolkien on Chaucer, 1913-1959](#). From Oxford University Press and apparently containing "everything Tolkien ever published or said about Chaucer". Including his translation of the *Reeve's Tale*, which is said to be "as yet unpublished". The OUP issued a contract for the book in 2021, and the French *Tolkendil* forum suggests publication toward the end of April 2024. Amazon UK is pre-ordering, but currently has no shipping date.

\* In the UK the *TLS* commented on the 50th anniversary of Tolkien's death, though buried in a digest of the week's literary news and very much said in passing...

"[it is] fifty years since Anthony Burgess declared in the *TLS* [in 1973] that "The Hesse cult continues, though the Tolkien one seems to be at an end", getting it exactly the wrong way round."

Thus back-handedly implying that the *TLS* even now thinks that the attention paid to Tolkien is due to a 'cult'. Judging by their ongoing lack of coverage, Tolkien is not high on their book-reviewer Wish List. Also, pushing the idea of a "cult" aligns the *TLS* with a small group of TV-oriented fans who try to label and dismiss the majority of Tolkien fans as "an intolerant cult".



The Hesse referred to above was the now little-read German writer Herman Hesse, once well known in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Not to be confused with Hess the captured Nazi leader.

\* From Bangor University, [How J.R.R. Tolkien was inspired by medieval poems of northern bravery](#). A short article under Creative Commons Attribution...

“Fifty years on from Tolkien’s death, that spirit of northern bravery endures as an alluring concept. What makes Tolkien’s fantastical world so appealing is the recurrent suggestion that the courage manifested to defeat the big monsters in *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings* is the very same courage that can be found in hopeless situations of a more ordinary sort.”

\* Charles Williams expert Sorina Higgins this week [reports several projects underway](#)...

– An article on Tolkien’s only play, *The Homecoming of Beorhtnoth Beorhthelm’s Son*.

– A book [on Williams], *An Introduction to The Oddest Inkling*.

– My life’s work! The long-anticipated *Annotated Arthuriad of Charles Williams*.

\* France.info [visits the Lamb & Flag pub in Oxford](#), recently re-opened as a community-run venture and reportedly doing a roaring trade.

\* The *Knowing and Understanding C.S. Lewis* podcast [interviews Holly Ordway on her new book Tolkien’s Faith](#). It’s a two-part interview, with [part two](#) here.

\* In Mexico, [Tolkien: La fantasía del libro al mundo digital](#), in September 2023.



\* A pleasing poster for the forthcoming German conference on visualising Tolkien's work, to be held in Gottingen in Germany, 27th to 29th October 2023.

# mit anderen augen

DIE VISUALISIERUNG VON TOLKIENS WERK



**19. Hybrid-Tolkien-Konferenz  
der Deutschen Tolkien Gesellschaft e.V.**

in Zusammenarbeit mit  
**Walking Tree Publishers** und dem  
**Seminar für Englische Philologie** an der  
**Georg-August-Universität Göttingen**  
vom 27. bis 29. Oktober 2023



\* The September/October issue of the *St. Austin Review*, themed as ‘A Tolkien Jubilee’...

– “On Fairy-Stories and Fantasy: 50 Years After the Father’s Farewell”.

– “The Liturgy of the Mass Seen Through Tolkien’s Lens of Fairy-Story”.

– “Good Love, Bad Love: From Tolkien to Denis de Rougemont and Back Again”.

– A review of *The Nature of Middle-Earth*.

\* *Bitter Winter* details a recently auctioned and (apparently) previously unknown 1969 letter from Tolkien.

\* In *The Critic* in September 2023, “Tolkien, 50 Years On: the true scale of his legacy is gradually becoming apparent”. One of the better and more thoughtful articles in the current wave of ‘Tolkien for the clueless’ articles appearing in newspapers and magazines.

\* The long-running *British Fairies* blog this weekend surveys “Popular Views of Faeries in Victorian and Edwardian Times”, as seen on popular cards of the period. This post’s focus necessarily gives a one-sided view. But recall that a fairy-play, *The Blue Bird*, could win Maetlinck the 1911 Nobel Prize for Literature. And that Kipling, author of *Puck of Pook’s Hill* (1906), had won the Nobel Prize in 1907. Such was the context in which Tolkien began writing.

\* “A Tale of Two Essays: The Inklings on the Alliterative Meter” in *Notes and Queries* (August 2023). No download, but a useful long abstract...

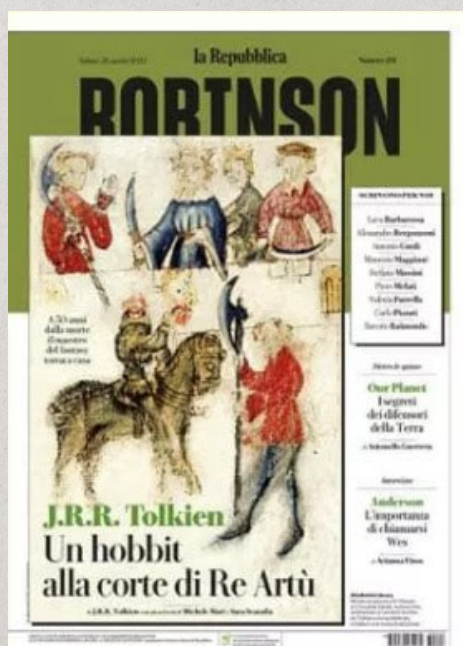


“... why did Tolkien claim precedence [for the metrical appendix in ‘On Translating *Beowulf*’] despite knowing, strictly speaking, that such precedence was false? My solution to this minor mystery is that Tolkien simply got ‘scooped’ by his friend [C.S. Lewis]. That is, Lewis unintentionally pre-empted Tolkien’s essay, yet his own essay seems to have directly spurred Tolkien, a perennial procrastinator, into completing a metrical work fifteen years in the planning.

\* A Spanish cultural journal has a new Tolkien special. Seems to be a fairly standard mix, but the article on a “biographical link” may interest some...

a profile of the author; a discussion of *LoTR*; a look at “twelve clues that illuminate some enigmas” in his work; discussion of the film adaptations; and “Andreu Navarra explains his biographical link with Tolkien”.

\* In Italy, the *La Repubblica* newspaper’s cultural magazine also celebrates Tolkien. Specifically the new Italian *Sir Gawain & The Green Knight*...





\* Oxonmoot 2023 has now been and gone in Oxford. The final schedule included, among others...

– “A Tolkien Onomasticon: the need, and a possible approach”. [The need for a full and scholarly name-list]

– “Making The Invisible Visible: presences of evil and disappearing characters in illustrations for J.R.R. Tolkien”. [How do we illustrate the “hidden things” in Tolkien or his descriptions such as “Not a nasty, dirty, wet hole”?]

– “Dyeing in Middle-earth”. [“Explores the links between Tolkien’s use of distinctive colours to define the races of Middle-earth, and the flora he names” in *LoTR*].

– “A Different Gaze: hidden features in Tolkien’s drawings” [We can now see “some minute features which might otherwise have remained unnoticed” [and the talk will itemise] “the hidden features in Tolkien’s drawings which have been identified so far.”]

– “Reading Tolkien in the 1950s” [This was “a very different experience from the context of present-day publications and adaptations. It is worthwhile examining the development of our knowledge of the Legendarium in this light.”]

– “Creative ‘Borrowings’: an overview of *Heimskringla*’s influence on J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis” [On “the two authors’ different responses to the classic Norse text *Heimskringla*, written by the twelfth-century scholar Snorri Snurluson.”]

– “Water-Lillies Bringing: a horrific monster hidden in plain sight” [Bombadil as a reflection of “a terrible monster posing as a kind and innocent figure”? Sounds like it’s about the real-world ‘River-man’ folk-lore, and



perhaps and/or inland pool nixies. Both of which I've detailed in my recent book.]

– “The Animals That Are Not There (and the trees that are)” [Why “among all of Tolkien’s descriptions of nature, are there almost no descriptions of animals?”]

The latter talk also asks... “How come Bilbo doesn’t have a dog that goes on walks with him, and why aren’t there any cats in the Prancing Pony Inn”?

I’d suggest it’s because in Middle-earth dogs appear to be big nasty smelly hairy farmyard things with slavering fangs, not the modern cute breeds. Having a dog would also likely alarm dwarves and elves, scare off birds and wildlife (as they do in the primary world), and would further mean the ring could not be used — the presence of the ring-less dog would give Bilbo away. Also because Bilbo probably has nasty memories of the white wolves invading the Shire in the Fell Winter of 2911 (he was there, though a young boy-hobbit at age 21).

As for cats in The Shire and Bree, with all the ruckus going on inside the Prancing Pony, the stables packed with smelly (and then escaped *en masse*) horses, and a Black Rider prowling around, any cats would have been sensibly keeping well away from the frontage and stables of the Prancing Pony while the hobbits were there. Perhaps the next morning the cats were there, but were all round the back sniffing for the previous evening’s kitchen scraps?

\* A new undergraduate dissertation from Ohio, [“Into the Mythopoeia of J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis: Memories of War through Fantasy Literature”](#) (2023). The author has done primary source work in the Bodleian. The download is embargoed, but the page has a long abstract.



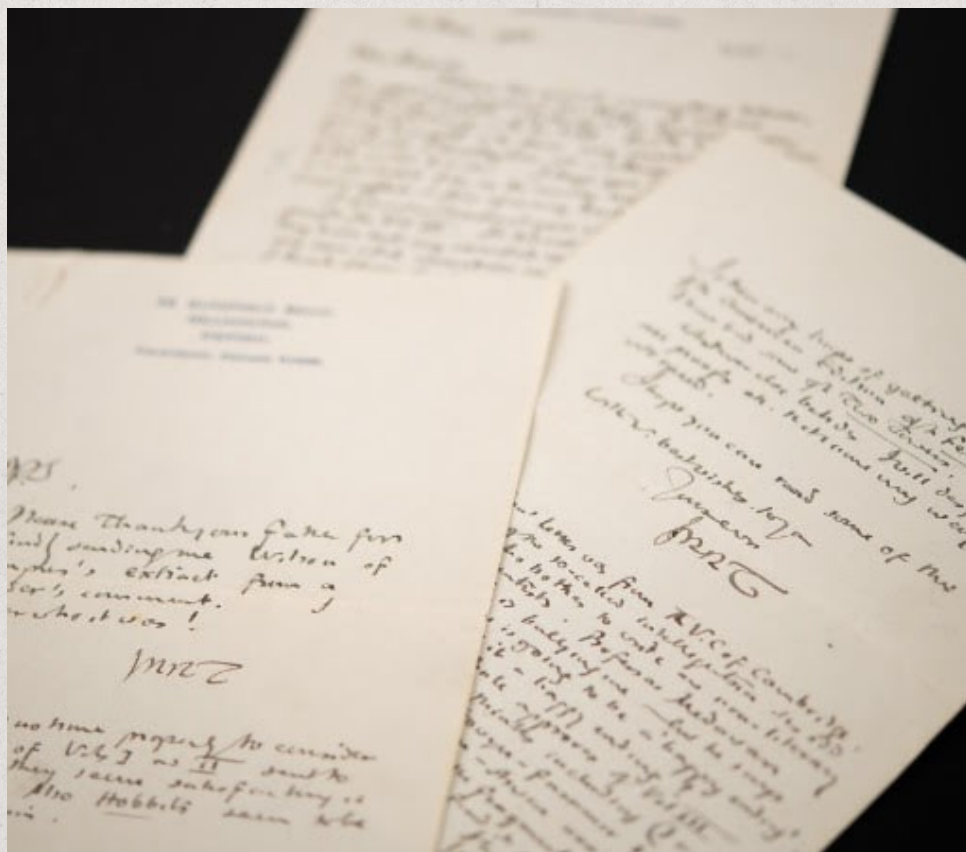
\* The Derbyshire well-dressing tradition has been extended to Tolkien. Holymoorside has three new well-dressing panels featuring Tolkien scenes, each made with around 40 varieties of flowers, plus leaves and seeds collected from the locality. Well-dressing is a folk custom practiced in the Derbyshire Peak district and parts of North Staffordshire, involving the painstaking creation of large decorated panel-pictures made with flower-petals and seeds, which are then placed around local springs and water-wells.



\* Currently up for auction, with good pictures, a 1955 [J.R.R. Tolkien autograph letter](#). On completing *LoTR*, Tolkien perhaps rather jokingly reveals he was being "bullied" by a fellow academic into not having a happy ending for the book, but then asks with seeming anxiousness... "Would you call it a happy ending? Auden on the whole approves of Vol. III (seen in galley)".

Bidding ended 24th September 2023.





\* The Franciscan University of Steubenville [has a partial speaker-list](#) for their Tolkien conference “A Long Expected Party: A Semicentennial Celebration Of Tolkien’s Life, Works, And Afterlife”, which was set for 22nd-23rd September 2023. Holly Ordway and Carl F. Hostetter were the keynote speakers.

Back in March 2023 the call-for-papers asked for new work on the “less studied elements of Tolkien’s legendarium and recently published works”.

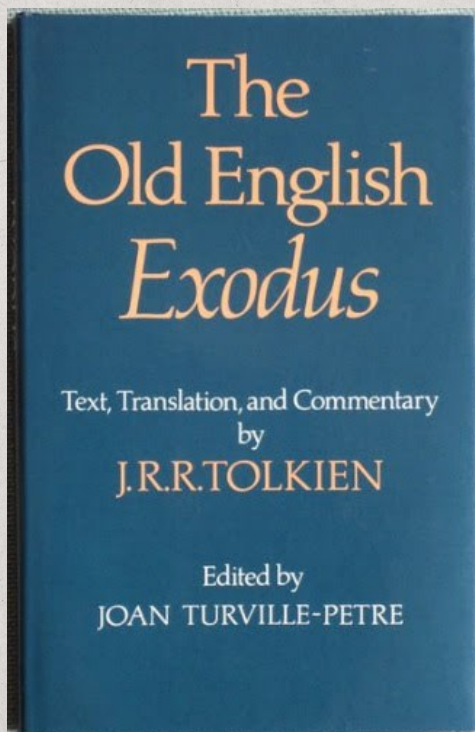
One hopes that the recordings will find their way online for free, after the event. Though I’ve seen nothing of these as yet, as of the time this issue of the ‘zine was published.



\* I was late in spotting the long podcast “[Lewis and Tolkien: Imagination and Sexuality](#)” (March 2023), which paired Holly Ordway with the C.S. Lewis scholar Michael Ward. For the .mp3 download, click on ‘... More’, then right-click ‘Download Audio’ and then ‘Save Linked Content...’.

\* New in Welsh, “[Cymraeg egsotig J.R.R. Tolkien](#)”, as an embargoed pre-print in a repository. The embargo locks pop on 22nd September 2023. The title translates as ‘The Exotic Welsh of J.R.R Tolkien’, and the article is otherwise in print in Bangor University’s stylish Welsh-language magazine [O’r Pedwar Gwynt](#) (\$ paywall).

\* New on Archive.org for the first time, Tolkien’s [The Old English Exodus](#) (1982). A poor and grainy scan, with no OCR... but free.





\* The French newspaper *La Vie* [interviews Vincent Ferre](#) in French. Professor of Comparative Literature at the Sorbonne, and also overseer of the Tolkien Editions at the French publisher Christian Bourgeois. The interview has no news and is very much ‘potted Tolkien for the average newspaper reader who’s never encountered Tolkien’. But it looks like one of the better examples of the breed.

\* New this week on the *Mythmakers* podcast, [an interview with Holly Ordway about her important new book \*Tolkien’s Faith\*](#) (due for release on 2nd September 2023). For the .mp3 download, click on ‘... More’, then right-click ‘Download Audio’ and then ‘Save Linked Content...’. I hadn’t realised that the Birmingham Oratory which Tolkien knew as a boy is *not* the one we have now. The new building was begun when Tolkien was about age 15 and completed three years later in 1910. He left Birmingham for Oxford in 1911, so as a schoolboy he would only have known the new and current building in daily use for perhaps 18 months.

\* Newly and freely online, a short scholarly introduction to [“Trees in J.R.R. Tolkien’s World”](#). Originally in “Birks, A. (2010), *Etudes Tolkieniennes*, Universite Catholique de l’Ouest.” This journal *Etudes Tolkieniennes* appears to have produced two issues and was a departmental collection of “the best articles written by Masters research students studying ‘Interculturality: Languages and Cultures’ at UCO”. The journal appears to have otherwise utterly vanished into the mists of time. Note that this “Trees” article can also be had as a PDF download, by those not signed up to Researchgate, by searching for the title on Google Scholar.



\* The Tolkien et al. *Gawain* is to get an Italian edition next week. *Sir Gawain e il cavaliere verde: Con Perla e Sir Orfeo* is due to ship on 30th August 2023 from Bompiani. “Beautifully rendered in a new translation” together with *Pearl*, and with a translation of Christopher Tolkien’s introduction. Also coming at the end of October 2023 is an Italian hardback edition of Hammond & Scull’s *J.R.R. Tolkien: artista e illustratore*, which may interest non-Italian readers simply for the pictures. Italian artbooks having a certain reputation for quality printing.

\* A new edition of *SELIM: Journal of the Spanish Society for Medieval English Language and Literature* (Vol. 28 No. 1, July 2023). Note that many of the DOI links are broken (no surprise there, as around 50% of all DOIs are broken), but the PDF links are fine.

This issue of *SELIM* has an addendum to “The Missing Letters J.R.R. Tolkien Received from Derek J. Price and R.M. Wilson”, together with a review of *Winters in the World: A Journey through the Anglo-Saxon Year* (2022) and of *Tolkien in the 21st Century* (2022).

From the sound of it the latter is surprisingly historical, given the book’s title and sub-title “Reading, Reception, and Reinterpretation”. The book having within it “Fairy Women in J.R.R. Tolkien’s *The Lord of the Rings* and their Arthurian Counterparts” and “Tolkien’s Runes and their Legacy” in which the reviewer notes...

“Birkett establishes that the runes devised by Tolkien, contrary to his claims, did derive from older sources, at least appearance-wise”



\* “Plans to revive pub where Tolkien and C.S. Lewis met”. It’s said that the firm applying for local council planning permission remains “committed to the Eagle and Child as a public house”. If the building of a restaurant extension can be approved, the firm will also “lightly” restore and refurbish. Though it sounds from reports as if the place has been left to go to rack-and-ruin, and it probably needs a lot more work.

\* Tolkien would surely have been pleased to hear that 20,000 words are newly included in a new dictionary of Shakespeare’s English. These are in the new *Arden Encyclopedia of Shakespeare’s Language* (August 2023). The first two volumes (of five) should be available quite soon, and together these two hold the complete new A-Z. The new words are also drawn from a huge corpus written by Shakespeare’s contemporaries, as well as from the works. They have a £400 retail list-price, but currently no price on Amazon UK.

\* A large Tolkien Music Festival in Italy... “the Tolkien Music Festival aims to become a cultural center-of-gravity, capable of hosting and sustaining the ongoing artistic production” inspired by Tolkien. The 2023 event also includes a contest for visual artists. 30th September to 1st October 2023, in a town about 25 miles north of the city of Bologna in northern Italy. Booking now.

\* *The Times* (\$ paywall) reports the “Swiss village of Lauterbrunnen is under siege from tourists” this summer. The newspaper blames the especially potent combination of a Tolkien claim (‘the inspiration for Rivendell’) and the nearby mountain-top setting for a classic 1969 James Bond movie.



\* New to me, the book *Words of Westernesse: Tolkien's languages of Men and Hobbits* (November 2021). A 120-page introduction to "the tongues spoken by the men of Numenor", and by extension the Westron. Google Books has an extended free preview, which inspires more confidence than the cover. Includes...

(tentative) etymologies of Adunaic and Westron as far as the corpus of vocabulary has been established. This volumes includes updated versions of the essays 'Lalaith's Guide to Adunaic grammar' and "Etymologies of the Atani Languages".

This find led me to discover the author's [\*Middle-earth Science Pages\*](#) website / blog. Again, new to me and now indexed by my new [\*Tolkien scholarship search-engine\*](#). From the site I found there's a 500-page omnibus edition (March 2022), combined with several other books...

"... a new hardcover offer. And I am most impressed! The omnibus edition of my four volumes "Middle-earth seen by the barbarians", "Words of Westernesse", "Dynasties of Middle-earth" and "The Moon in The Hobbit" looks most professional, the colour images are crisp, the paper feels noble – "like from the bookshop" my daughter said, admiringly!

- *Middle-earth Seen By The Barbarians* considers what can be known about the barbarians and pirates of the far east and south.

- *The Moon in The Hobbit* looks at the astronomical / calenderical aspects.

- *Dynasties* has various annotated genealogical tables. This March 2022 omnibus can also be had [\*as a budget £5.60 Kindle ebook\*](#) (about \$8).



\* 100 Staffordshire churches were open to visitors in September. These included Our Lady of the Angels and St. Peter in Chains, on the edge of Hartshill in Stoke-on-Trent. This church is of some tangential Tolkien interest, since the older Tolkien spent many holidays in Stoke-on-Trent in his retirement. His son was the priest there and thus I assume the elder Tolkien attended this next-door church, though I don't know of any hard evidence for that. I guess it's just possible that he found a more traditional Catholic church somewhere else in the Potteries, and went there. Possibly the forthcoming Holly Ordway book will clarify such questions of attendance.

\* New on Archive.org is a run of White Dwarf Magazine from #1 to #100 (1977-1988). Raw and fannish early RPG gaming, before the slick corporate takeovers and makeovers. Such games and scenarios drew heavily on ideas from Middle-earth, though with a strong infusion of pre-Tolkien sword & sorcery.

\* A recreation of Tolkien's "On Dragons and Dinosaurs" lecture for children, was "back by popular demand" as an event at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History on 5th September 2023. More details at the British Society for Literature and Science page.

\* Those interested in fantasy maps may want to look at a new research-summary open-access article by Japanese researchers, "A Study of 'Map Sense' that Supports the Accuracy of Maps, Through Interviews with Imaginary Map Creators" (2023).

\* *Tolkien Gateway* now has the table-of-contents for Amon Hen 301 (June 2023). An especially hobbit issue by the look of it, with reviews of the new edition



of *The History of the Hobbit*, and *The Wisdom of Hobbits*. Articles include “The House where The Hobbit was Born” and “Pippin, the Persistent Rebel”.

\* Interesting new musings on “Of Home and Hearth: Tolkien and *The Wind in the Willows*”...

Oh, we have all the pleasantries, and even similar homecoming plot points [of *The Wind in the Willows* (1908)], but simply acting respectable and avoiding the outside world will not cut it with Tolkien. His hobbit interest is [in] what happens when you take the smug bourgeoisie and put them in an altogether new and alien setting. That which Grahame’s narrative discourages, in terms of character curiosity and breaks from social conformity, Tolkien’s narratives encourage.

\* New in an Italian newspaper’s culture section, the article “Roy Campbell, il poeta in esilio che ispirò l’Aragorn di Tolkien” (‘Roy Campbell, the exiled poet who inspired Tolkien’s Aragorn’). I can’t say I’ve heard this claim of ‘Aragorn’s original’ before, or if the evidence for it is valid, but it may interest some.

\* My Tolkien book *Tree & Star* (2022) can now be had in paperback from Lulu.com. It’s produced and sold via the U.S. Lulu.com store, as a standard 6” x 9” American ‘trade’ paperback. I’ve tried to keep the price as low as possible.

\* A new academic book, *Critics of Enlightenment Rationalism Revisited*, is due to ship on 11th September 2023... said to “provide an overview of some of the most important critics of Enlightenment rationalism [including] Scruton and Tolkien”. £40 in ebook or paperback.



\* *J.R.R. Tolkien in Central Europe: Context, Directions and the Legacy* shipped on 26th September 2023.

There's a preview on Google Books, and the final table of contents is thus available...

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<i>Reception and Translations of Tolkien in Hungary</i>
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2 <i>Reading Tolkien in Hungary, Part II: The 21st Century</i>
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<b>PART II</b>
<i>Reception and Translations of Tolkien in Czechoslovakia and Its Succeeding Countries</i>
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DAVID LEVENTE PALATINUS
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\* The much-trailed '[Fantasy Goes to Hell](#)' Mythopoeic Society seminar event now has downloads online. There are many to choose from, but Tolkien items of interest to me are...

- [“Hellish Landscapes in J.R.R. Tolkien’s Legendarium”](#)
- [“Tolkien goes to Hell: From the Deepest Underground to the Utmost Void”](#)
- [“Managing Hell: C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien on the Infernality of Managerialism”](#)
- [Panel discussion: “Deep Places of the World: Journeys in the Underworlds of Middle-earth”](#)



\* A new YouTube video on ["The Lost Words of Tolkien"](#). It's a bit of a 'quickie' video, and please don't imagine I'm suggesting it as a scholarly heavyweight. But it's a nice idea to try to do explication videos for the spiflicated.

I must say that even I was stumped by the word *hame*, as in "Gandalf Greyhame", originally "Gray-hame" before Tolkien's final text.

I find that today *hame* is still in use, but only as a word for the stiff part of a fitted horse-collar. The pair of horse *hames* are used to fit the skein of leather control-reins to a working heavy-horse. The maker of the YouTube video suggests this horse meaning in passing, but Tolkien's source is more likely to be found in the latest *Bosworth-Toller*. This venerable dictionary suggests the Old English *hama* (a natural covering or tough thin skin, as in a 'shed snake-skin') and for "Gandalf Greyhame" this implies a long cloak of natural material, possibly somewhat tattered and skein-like through much wear ("the most beggar-like..."). Hammond & Scull note the similar "Old English *graeghama* 'grey-coated'". No source is mentioned for this, but it is surely *The Fight at Finnsburg* where it appears as *graeg-hama*, perhaps there evoking the hearing of the sound of grey mail-ring battle-corslets in sinister motion beyond the hall's doors, via a poetic comparison to the slavering jaws of grey-coated wolves.

The word is also apparently in Gothic as *hama* 'covering, of a man', and in Middle English meaning "coat".

I'd add that the word's core meaning thus appears to link through to the continental *earendel* cognates re: the tale of Orendel and his strange Gray Coat.



\* New on Archive.org, Tolkien's "English and Welsh" seen in its original context, along with other lectures. As the volume [Angles and Britons: O'Donnell Lectures](#).

\* A thoughtful new blog post on ["Music and Its Effects in \*The Hobbit\*"](#).

\* Dates for the [German Tolkien Days 2024](#) when... "more than 8,000 fantasy fans gather to bring Middle-earth to life". 24th to 26th May 2024, on the Rhine in Germany. I have the impression it's largely 'cos-play meets military re-enactment', but I could just be being led astray by the pictures of past events.



\* A new second edition of *The Historical Dictionary of Fantasy Literature* (June 2023), though sadly aimed at university libraries and thus a whopping £150 for some 590 pages. Surely there would be more profit in making it a mass-market £30 title, given the thousands of fans who would buy it versus a hundred university libraries?



Now the fans will just pirate it instead, whereas they might have ordered a paper edition. Anyway, it has...

“a chronology, an introduction, an extensive bibliography, and cross-referenced entries on more than 800 authors, ranging across the entire historical spectrum. More than 200 other entries describe the fantasy sub-genres, key images in fantasy literature, technical terms used in fantasy criticism”

No reference is made to the venerable Brian Stableford’s *Historical Dictionary of Fantasy Literature* (2005), but it seems possible that the new book is a second expanded edition of his work under a new editor. Since I can find no first edition credited to the second edition’s author.

\* The Oxford Tolkien 50 event’s website has some details of the small 2023 exhibitions at the University of Oxford. These are [Tolkien at Exeter College](#) and [Tolkien at Merton: Fellowship and Friendship](#).

\* In France, the Tolkiendil society has a [scholarly event](#) to... “celebrate the 50 years of the first French translation of the Lord of the Rings”. In French, but one talk appears to be in English as “Rings of Smoke: Pipe-weed, Pipes, and Smoking Imaginary in J.R.R. Tolkien’s Narrative”. I’d hope to see this on YouTube later in the year. The event was set for 6th-8th October 2023.

I see there was also a re-issue of the French edition of the Carpenter biography, *Tolkien: une biographie*, in September 2023.

\* The proceedings of the Tolkien Society Autumn Seminar [are on YouTube](#) as video, uploaded in July 2023. Due in book form in October 2023, with the title *Translating and Illustrating Tolkien* (Peter Roe Series XXIII). Not yet on Amazon UK.



\* [Signum University's Australian OzMoot](#), set for 26th-28th January 2024. 'Above All Shadows: Tolkien and Uncertain Futures' will be on the theme of Tolkien's depictions of hope in the face of future uncertainty.

\* Coming soon to the former mill-town of Barnsley in northern England, [the touring Middle-earth exhibition](#). This time it will be free. Runs until 6th April 2024.



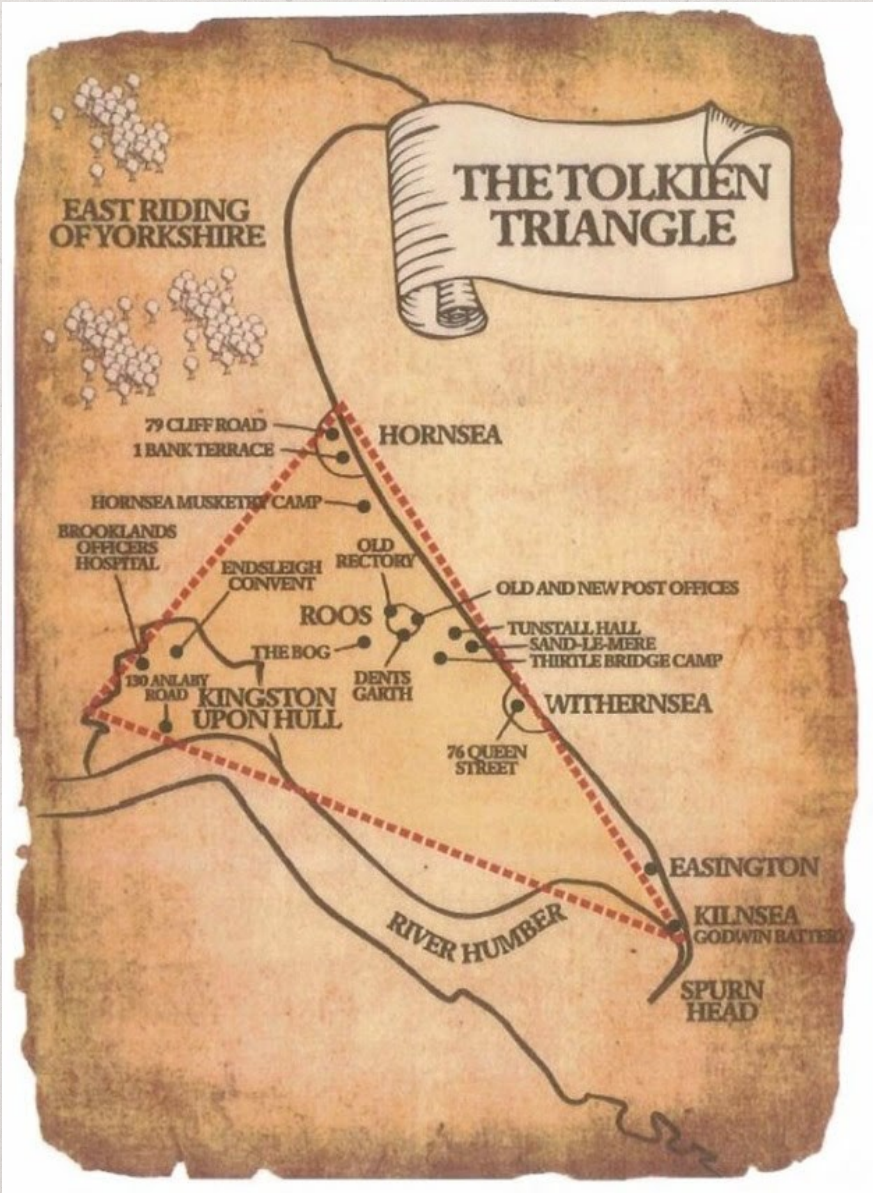
Barnsley is about ten miles south of Leeds, and thus a visit to the show might be combined with a Tolkien-oriented visit to Leeds. Local walker Chris Tye has a [Tolkien's 'walk to work' route](#) at Leeds.

\* The Catholic Irish writer Rosa Mulholland's vivid children's fantasy [The Walking Trees](#), now freely available in PDF. This is not the later handsome illustrated edition, which is utterly available except physically in a few Irish libraries. This version has been assembled from the original magazine serial. The ending is rather abrupt, but perhaps the book was different?



# GALLERY

## TOLKIEN IN EAST YORKSHIRE



For copious detail on Tolkien’s role in the defence of the East Coast of England, see “Tolkien and the Zeppelins”, *Journal of Tolkien Research*, Vol. 11, Issue 1, 2020.





*Roos Church and Avenue.*

Roos Church and Avenue

Roos Church and Avenue





Here we see the Brooklands Officers' Auxiliary Hospital, pictured in 1915. The hospital had been a private home, donated for the war effort and then run by the Red Cross. It was (and apparently still is) on Cottingham Road, and later gave its name to the famous Brooklands motor racing circuit and airfield.



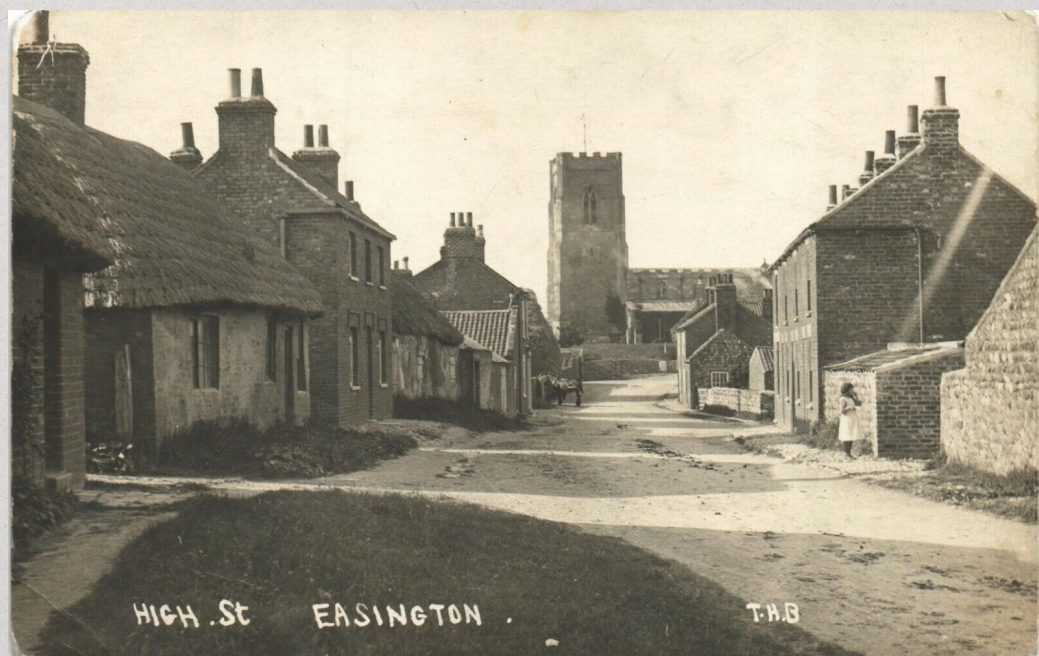


Tolkien was ill here for about nine weeks with fever, three of these in serious relapse. But he recovered. John Garth states: "when he was well enough Tolkien found the hospital a haven of congenial company (which included a regimental friend), and conducive to writing. Here, he wrote 'The Tale of Tinúviel'." (*Tolkien and the Great War*).





“Hull Road and Lighthouse, Withernsea”, possibly in the early 1930s. Below is the “High St., Eastington” in perhaps the 1910s, located just to the south of Withernsea along the coast and near to the hooked point of Spurn Head.







“Queen Street, North, Withernsea” (Hull), and “Queen Street, Hull” seen after a night raid by German airship bombers. Possibly the same Queen Street is seen in both pictures. Edith wrote to Tolkien from 76 Queen Street.







The promenade, beach and sea-wall on the windy sea-front at Hornsea.  
Hornsea distantly seen across 'The Mere' from the road to nearby Hull.









# QUERY

## CAN VENUS TWINKLE?

“the glint of Rauros was like a star twinkling far off” (Tolkien, *Lord of the Rings*)

TIN- (variant of (?) and in any case affected by THIN, q.v.) sparkle, emit slender (silver, pale) beams. Q *tine* it glints, *tintina* it sparkles; \**tinme* sparkle, glint: Q *tinwe* sparkle (star), [struck out: cf. *Tinwetar*, *Tinwerontar* star-queen, title of Varda]; *tin-dome* starlit dusk; *tingilya*, *tingilinde* a twinkling star. (From: “The Etymologies”, J.R.R. Tolkien, in *History of Middle-earth*, Vol. 5).

“a white stone in it twinkled as if the Even-star had come down to rest upon her hand” and “Sam saw a white star twinkle for a while” (Tolkien, *Lord of the Rings*).

The above quotes clearly show that stars do ‘twinkle’ in Middle-earth. So does Venus. But the matter of the twinkling of bright stars is also of partial relevance to the deep primary-world meaning of *earendel* re: the small matter of whether Venus can really be seen with the naked eye to put out short ‘shafts’ of light when low in the atmosphere, and even to ‘twinkle’ due to scintillation of the shafts.

It’s sometimes said that the bright planets simply don’t twinkle in the night sky, and especially Venus. This appears to be an oft-repeated truism among ably-equipped modern astronomers. Yet we must consider the pre-telescope age, when musing on the ‘Morning Star’ aspect Venus as the Old English *earendel*.

I have seen and found evidence that for naked eye observations

Venus can sometimes appear to have bright shafts and even to ‘twinkle’ a little. Especially when low in the sky and in the cold moist air of the British Isles...

“Look at Mercury always, Mars and Venus when small or thin, or any planet when low, to see how strongly they twinkle.” Fred Schaaf, *Seeing the Sky: 100 Projects*, Dover, 2013.

And I also found these examples from Tolkien’s Edwardian era, from places with less light pollution than today...

“... a sparking jewel in the sky. I thought I saw a firework when I first saw the planet glittering through a tree at night” (*The Private Diaries of Alison Uttley: Author of Little Grey Rabbit*) (talking of rural England).

“The majesty of the night brought me so much consolation [in wartime]. Venus, sparkling, is a friend to me” (*Letters of a Soldier, 1914-1915*) (France during wartime blackout).



I further discover some instances in poetic convention...

"Let English dames shewe forth their shyne, lyke Venus' twinkling starre" (from *The Harleian Miscellany*, Vol. 9, page 364).

"And Venus twinkling bland her tremulous lids" (Hesiod, trans. C.A. Elton). [bland = flutter (her eye-) lids, in a flattering manner]

Recall that Venus (as the Evening Star) was very low on the horizon when Tolkien made the evening observation which spurred his first successful journeyman poem.

Atmospheric perturbations may thus have been at play. I've also personally seen Venus (though as the Morning Star), 'twinkling' remarkably in the pre-dawn dark of the early springtime, in terms of having sharply sparkling surrounding 'shafts'. I assumed the 'twinkling' effect was a combination of old eyes watering a little in the cold, and the moist atmosphere.

A quick look at the literature suggests that it may have appeared with a visible crescent in the ancient British Isles at a significant time for the ancient inhabitants, i.e. when showing a 'crescent' visible to the naked eye...

"Venus and Mercury, which at times are observed as fairly narrow crescents, do occasionally twinkle quite appreciably". (Marcel Minnaert, *Light*

*and Color in the Outdoors*, Springer, 1992, page 92).

This may be relevant to the use of the 'crescent and star' symbolism, known from ancient British coins.

"In ancient times, the symbol of the crescent moon with a star may refer to a female divinity. [...] Probably on medieval coins the crescent moon with the star was [later] a symbol of the Virgin Mary". From: "The symbol of the crescent moon with a star on ancient and medieval coins", *Cultural Heritage and Modern Technologies*, 2023.

No non-Roman Venus lore appears to have survived from the North, but Brill's *Translations of Babylonian Planetary Omens*, from the original texts in clay tablets, interestingly has it that 'if Venus twinkles in the West, and her light (i.e. shafts) appears to touch the earth, she is deemed to have become male' and this is an ill-omen. Such notions suggest the wider possibility that aspects of Venus (as star-deity) were mutable for ancient peoples depending on the observed appearance. What seems straightforward to us was perhaps more nuanced for them, by things such as elevation above the horizon, twinkling, cardinal direction, 'house' of the sky, visibility of a crescent, proximity to the Moon or to the tree-tops of sacred trees / groves and suchlike.



# INDEX

## PAST ISSUES OF *TOLKIEN GLEANINGS*

### #1

Cover: Brocton Army Camp with cottage in the foreground (from the First World War).

Tolkien's Fox: in pursuit of Reynard.

Gleanings, from 2019 to December 2022.

Merry & Marmaduke: some possible sources.

Gallery: Tolkien's Birmingham (1).

Tolkien's League: afoot in Middle-earth.

Interview: Phil Dragash on his unabridged *LoTR* audio.

Word Notes: 'Brandwine' and 'Coalbiters'.

Film review: *Tolkien* (2019)

### #2

Cover: Painting of Coldbath Pool (Moseley Bog) (1903).

Tolkien's Other Brum.

Gleanings, December 2022 – January 2023.

Starry Knights: Tolkien and the pre-Raphaelites?

Gallery: Tolkien's Birmingham (2).

Gandalf and the hobbits.

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A Sharp Word: Pikestaffs in the Shire?

On Strider's Pipe.

Children in *The Lord of the Rings*.

Brief review: *A Dictionary of Sources of Tolkien* (2019).

### #3

On Tottering and Trotting.

Word note: 'ninnyhammer'.

On Goldberry: A Welsh Connection?

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Gallery: At Exeter College.

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Review note: Early printed items known to Tolkien.

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### #4

Cover: Detail of the Oratory Retreat door, the Lickeys.

Radagast: Whatever Became of Him? (with timeline).

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Essay: Fire and Lights—Tolkien's wartime fireworks.

Book Review: *Untangling Tolkien*.

Review note: Writers on William Morris and Tolkien.

Guide: Tolkien Bibliophilia.

Word note: On 'Anduin' as a Lombard name.

Back cover: Restored picture of Tolkien, 1925/26.

### #5

Mess and refuse in Tolkien.

Gleanings, May – July 2023

Gallery: Great and Little Haywood, and Around.

Tolkien & Ireland?

Very Disturbing': Tolkien's un-named creatures.

Dol Guldur: its landscape context and history.

A Real Loudwater?

Review: *Tolkien: A Film Portrait*.

Word note: On the city name of 'Gondor'.

### #6

Gleanings, July – August 2023.

Gallery: Some Edwardian Walking Trees.

A little more 'Brandywine'.

### #6

Gleanings, August – October 2023.

Gallery: Tolkien on the East Coast of England

Note: Twinkling Venus?

Restored and enhanced C.S. Lewis portrait (1955)



### **Where was J.R.R. Tolkien actually born? Not where most people say:**

It is a commonplace to claim that ‘Tolkien was born in South Africa’. But it would be more precise to say that he was born in the Orange Free State. This was a free nation, not then part of what is now South Africa (which formed 1910).

Tolkien was born in 1892 at Bank House in Maitland Street, in Bloemfontein — the capital of the Orange Free State. The ‘Free State’ was as it sounds — a free independent country, a Dutch/Afrikaans speaking Boer republic which had been formed under its own Parliament and with a formal constitution similar to that of the USA.

The Orange Free State was also under British ‘suzerainty’. Which meant that the Boers there had self-rule, but were under the military protection of the British Empire (a somewhat similar arrangement to that of Rohan and Gondor in *LoTR*, interestingly).

After what are commonly referred to in historical shorthand as ‘the Boer Wars’ (ended 1902) it became the Orange River Colony of the British Empire. The boy Tolkien had however left the Free State many years before 1902. In 1895, at the tender age of three, Tolkien had travelled to Great Britain on a long sea voyage. Never to return.

It might be better for those giving potted biographies to say where the man ‘came of age’ between 14 and 18. For Tolkien this place was England’s industrious second-city of Birmingham, in the West Midlands of what was then Great Britain at her Edwardian height (1904 – 1911).

### *∫ Colophon ∫*

Fonts used: Larken Italic for the cover masthead, Accanthis for cover straplines and interior headings, and Georgia 10pt to 14pt for the body text.

*Tolkien Gleanings* is made in the city of Stoke-on-Trent, North Staffordshire. Only available in PDF form, best read on a 10” digital tablet.

The magazine is produced with Microsoft Publisher on Windows 7. Printed to PDF from Publisher, thus retaining Web links. Print to: 6” x 9”.

Base auto-colorisation for the various pictures by Palette.fm, then finished by hand in Photoshop 2018.

Postcards via eBay and PicClick, rectified, cleaned.

Web links have been extracted from the final PDF and then tested for viability with the Screaming Frog SEO software. Any obviously 404 broken Web links were then fixed.

Ongoing *Tolkien Gleanings* news monitoring via Opera and QuiteRSS, plus active searches on Google Search, Google Scholar, JURN and GRAFT.



C.S. Lewis in 1955, as he was while assisting with the birth of *The Lord of the Rings*. Here I have enhanced with AI, cleaned, colourised, and enlarged to 4k. Original: 1955 by Walter Stoneman, now at the National Portrait Gallery in London.

